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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DAILY 49ER

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ASI executive candidates debate football, scholarships

The debate was moderated by the Daily 49er on Thursday.

By Julie Chung
Staff Writer

Associated Students Inc. executive candidates discussed the main issues concerning ASI, including improving outreach, maximizing efficiency and the fight against budget cuts during the ASI debate Thursday.

The debate was moderated by the Daily 49er at the University Student Union Ballrooms from 1-2:30 p.m.

Presidential candidate James Suazo suggested doing a self-assessment of ASI to figure out the most efficient way to run the auxiliary organization.

Although some candidates' main concern was budget cuts, presidential candidate Elizabeth Gamboa suggested bringing back a football team. Gamboa also proposed changing Cal State Long Beach's name to Long Beach State University and changing the university mascot to the Tongva rebels.

All other presidential candidates disagreed with Gamboa's proposals.

"I can't imagine spending the amount of time that it will take, the amount of administrative meetings it will take to change the name, when we have such huge issues on the line for our students," ASI presidential candidate Stephen Thomas said.

Suazo agreed, noting that the changes would be too expensive.

"We're talking about name changes, changing the mascot and now football, I just think that sounds like a very, very expensive administration that I don't know if I would ever support," Suazo said.

The candidates for vice president debated about if it was important to elect a vice president with ASI experience.

Although two of the candidates argued that the experience is not necessary, current ASI Senator Diana Phan argued that having the experience has allowed her to see all students' perspectives.

Jorge Soriano, who served on the Senate for the past two years, suggested that ASI cannot wait for students to come to them like "moths to a flame," and that ASI should begin getting the information out to students.

The vice presidents also disagreed about Jonathon Bolin's proposal to have a new scholarship that would cut 33 percent of his salary to provide more money to students.

"I think that cutting 33 percent off our paycheck and stuff is more of a publicity thing," said Priscilla Covarrubias, a vice presidential candidate. "It's not gonna make much of a difference. ASI's budget is $15 million so a few thousand ain't gonna make a difference to the whole school population so I don't see the big importance of it."

Sean Boyd | Daily 49er

ASI presidential candidates Elizabeth Gamboa, left, Stephen Thomas, Nicholas Donn, John Haberstroh and James Suazo debated in an open forum before the student population Thursday.

Covarrubias' response stirred a heated debate over Bolin's proposal.

"For you to say that a student would not want a $1,000 scholarship, or a $500 scholarship, or even $100 for textbooks, I think is very ignorant," Bolin said in response. "Obviously, you're not in touch with the student population here. No amount of scholarships is enough until every single student can pay for their own education."

Covarrubias said Bolin's cut to his paycheck was a publicity stunt and wouldn't affect many students.

Phan disagreed, saying Bolin's proposal was noble.

"I think helping any student is a big deal," Phan said. "By you excluding, by saying helping a couple students isn't a big deal, I think every student counts as a big deal."

Candidates accused of breaking election rules

Campaign workers for John Haberstroh, Jonathon Bolin passed out leaflets in dorms.

By Kasia Hall
City Editor

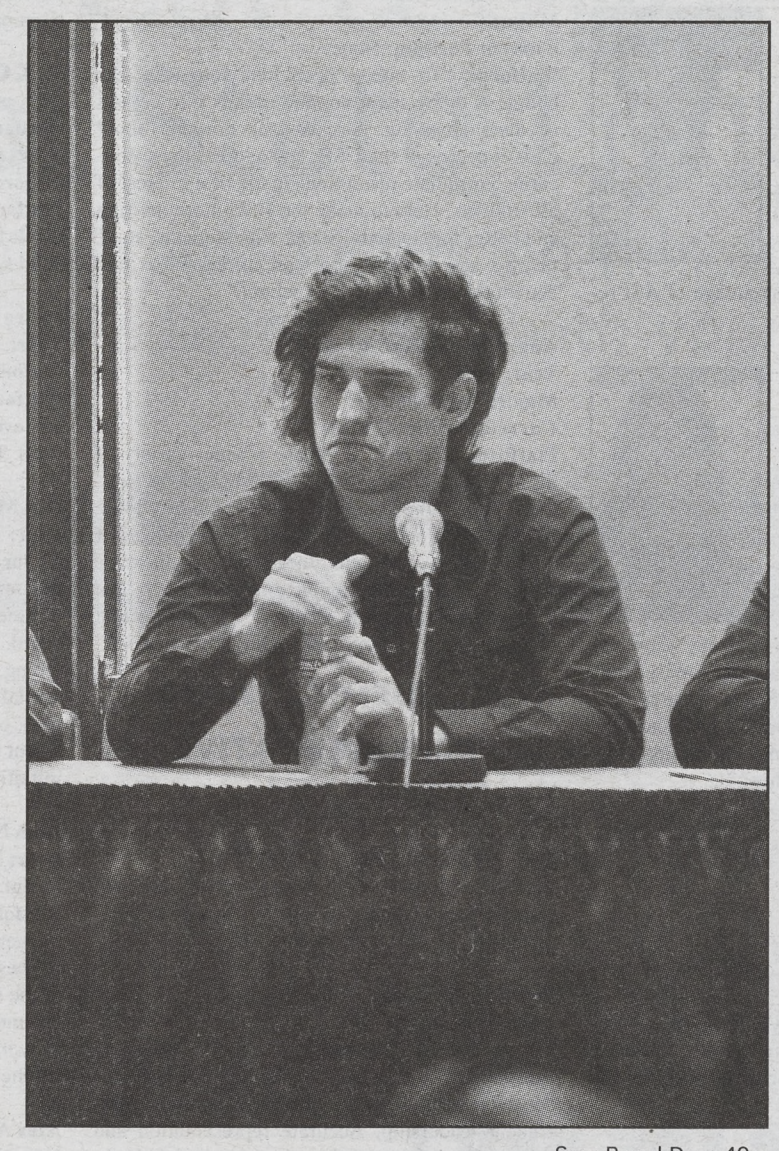
John Haberstroh and Jonathon Bolin, two candidates who are running for executive positions in Associated Students Inc., have been petitioned against for violating the election handbook by passing out campaign leaflets in the dorms.

According to ASI Government Elections Officer Leo Palomera, Haberstroh, who is running for president, and Bolin, who is running for vice president, are accused of sliding leaflets under residents' doors.

According to the 2011 Elections Handbook, candidates cannot participate in door-to-door soliciting, distribute fliers under the door or solicit by knocking.

Bolin said two of their campaign workers, who live in the dorms, told him that they had passed out leaflets to just their friends in the dorms.

A hearing with the Board of Elections will be held today at 7:15 p.m.



Sean Boyd | Daily 49er

Jonathon Bolin is running on a ticket with John Haberstroh.

Bolin said he and Haberstroh will plead guilty at the meeting. The Board of Elections will then decide what consequences Haberstroh and Bolin will face, Palomera said.

"It's a relatively minor offense," Palomera said.

If the person who filed the petition does not appear at the hearing Monday, the case will be dismissed.

Cal State Online collects feedback, criticism

Program executive director says services must provide value.

By Brianne Schaer
News Editor

Cal State Online, an up-and-coming online university program, recently published documents on its website in order to improve communication with the pubic.

Students and faculty may provide feedback on the program by submitting comments on **calstateonline.net**, or by dialing in to one of two upcoming open forum calls scheduled for March 20 from 4 to 5 p.m. and March 29 from 9 to 10 a.m.

Although the details of the program are in the works, executive director Ruth Claire Black said that she hopes students join the comment calls and include themselves in the development process.

"We don't want to spend a lot of energy and time to add services that are not in interest," she said. "We want to make sure that services provide value in many different perspectives."

The first open forum call was on March 12.

Black said the questions brought up were overall thoughtful and focused on trying to understand the project. Some of the topics included concerns regarding intellectual property rights and the services provided, she said.

"There is usually a fear that the online programs may be less than a face-to-face program and the people wonder if the faculty will know who the students at the other end are," said Otto Benavides, a professor at Cal State Fresno. "But it's something that allows [students] to be flexible because they can study the materials at any time."

Benavides is a member of Cal State Online and currently teaches online courses.

He said that online programs may benefit students because they are scheduled for convenience.

Benavides is available for student questions 24/7 via Skype, email, cellphone and discussion boards, among other things. Benavides said this teaching style is possible because of the low class sizes he teaches online.

Black said she hopes to keep class sizes at a maximum of 30 students.

"One of the things I think we dream about as board members is keeping classes relatively small," she said. "We don't envision doing any mega-system online classes. Our goal is to keep class sizes small."

The development of the program is ongoing, and the information on the website will be updated as it becomes available.

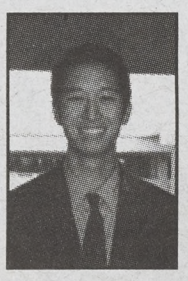
Many Cal State Universities have appointed a campus communications liaison to collect comments, feedback and concerns from each campus. Cal State Long Beach has yet to appoint a campus communications liaison.

Student election for future ASI leaders begins today

Association Students Inc. elections begin today and end Thursday. Ballots will be emailed to students.

COMPILED BY MONIQUE CARNES
Assistant City Editor

PRESIDENT



Nicholas Donn
Year: Senior
Major: Management information systems
Current Position: None
Platform: "Fight for your interests every single day. Implement plans to improve parking on upper campus. Revamp our campus life with entertainment events/concerts. Inform the student body weekly of our goals, accomplishments and failures through social and printed media."

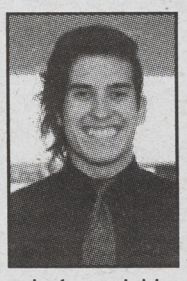
Elizabeth Gamboa
Year: Junior
Major: History
Current Position: None
Platform: "Changing the university name to Long Beach State University. Changing the mascot from Prospector Pete to the Tongvah Rebels. Adding a Greek Row by commissioning a feasibility study to organize students who wish to see that mater through. Reinstating CSULB's football program."

John Haberstroh
Year: Senior
Major: History
Current Position: None
Platform: "Continue the fight against tuition and fee increases in Sacramento. Make ASI more visible on campus by promoting events and programs. Parking ticket and meter reforms. Improve crosswalk safety on Campus Drive West. Continue the values and ideas that make CSULB stand out among the best universities in the west."

James Suazo
Year: Senior
Major: English education
Current Position: None
Platform: "Maximize outreach efforts by collaborating with all divisions of ASI to reach all of our diverse student populations. Promoting shared governance in all facets of the university's decision-making processes to advance transparency and academic success. Optimizing efficiency and utilizing effective business practices to ensure that the full range of ASI services are accessible to all students."

Stephen Thomas
Year: Senior
Major: Business management
Current Position: Vice President
Platform: "Unwavering representation and student advocacy. Inclusive and diverse student government. Green campus initiatives. Accountability through accessible student government."

VICE PRESIDENTS



Jonathon Bolin
Year: Senior
Major: History/Religious studies
Current Position: None
Platform: "Develop a new student scholarship that will be funded by a portion of my salary. Reform parking citation policy. Promote student involvement and extra-curricular activities throughout campus to reduce the stereotype of CSULB simply a 'commuter campus.' Make ASI more visible on campus and more accessible to students."

Priscilla Covarrubias
Year: Sophomore
Major: Business
Current Position: None
Platform: "Reinstating a Division I football program. Commissioning a study on a Greek Row. Redirecting funds of unnecessary programs."

Diana Phan
Year: Sophomore
Major: Political science
Current Position: Senator-at-Large
Platform: "Taking a strong stance against further budget cuts by advocating on behalf of the students through lobbying. Writing resolutions on issues, which represent the best interest of all students. Advancing toward a greener campus, for example, implementing water rehydration systems. Empowering students and being a voice for them."

Jorge Soriano
Year: Junior
Major: Drama/Chinese
Current Position: Senator, College of the Arts
Platform: "Maximizing outreach efforts by collaborating with all divisions of ASI to reach all of our diverse student populations. Promoting shared governance in all facets of the university's decision-making processes to advance transparency and academic issues. Optimizing efficiency and utilizing effective business practices to ensure that the full range of ASI services are accessible to all students."

TREASURER

Jose Espeleta
Year: Senior
Major: International business/Finance
Current Position: Senator, College of Business
Platform: "I will further seek to improve the communication between ASI, student organizations and the student body so they may be able to take advantage of ASI resources."

Jordan Cattuzzo
Year: Junior
Major: Nutrition and dietetics
Current Position: None
Platform: "To take a stance against budget cuts. Support organizations and help them to attain the funds they need to further their own growth. To obtain and use as much funding as possible to help support students. Represent the students of California State University Long Beach and help them to continue to have a voice in their finances dedicated toward their education. Create awareness to the students of pressing financial issues that are affecting them."

USU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jessica Corral
Year: Sophomore
Major: Pre-Nursing
Current Position: Senator, College of Health and Human Services
Platform: "The responsibility to oversee the University Student Union and Student Recreation & Wellness Center, as well as programs designed to benefit us, CSULB students."

Karen Diaz
Year: Sophomore
Major: Design
Current Position: None
Platform: "Lobby against budget cuts. Support and implement more student activities and student involvement. Have open communication with the Board, ASI, and the student body."

Megann Jenkins
Year: Freshman
Major: Communications
Current Position: USU, Board of Trustee Student-at-Large
Platform: "I would continue to address concerns regarding the USU and the SRWC. I would make sure the board has the student's best interest when considering fees and the overall budget."

Roseann Knight
Year: Junior
Major: Psychology
Current Position: Vice Chair, USU Board of Trustees
Platform: "I would continue to address issues that arise when dealing with USU and SRWC. I would make sure student fees are being spent properly, while still providing quality services, when reviewing budgets."

Anh Le
Year: Junior
Major: Economics
Current Position: None
Platform: "Listen and understand what students needs to create a better campus as well as academic life. Bring the students' voice together and further because we are the ones who are training ourselves to build the future of the country. Use the best of my knowledge as an Economics major to build a strong side against university budget cuts. Create and assist plans to make sure that the university is operating in our best interests."

Jenny Situ
Year: Freshman
Major: Pre-Psychology
Current Position: None
Platform: "To be committed to my job. Be involved to create plans and new services to benefit USU. Keep the online pols about the USU active. Improving USU on certain stances. Open to communicate with students for opinions. Help to manage the budget. Sacrificing my time to finish my tasks. Attend all the meetings and necessary meetings. Be the voice of the student."

Nicholas Smith
Year: Sophomore
Major: Geology
Current Position: None
Platform: "To take a deep look into what the budget is being spent on, and review it to cut out needless spending. Ask students directly about their concerns or the USU, and address these concerns. Formulate resolutions in the best interest of all students. Help to make the USU more inviting and better for students. Speak with students, staff, faculty, and administrators on compromises that benefit the students and the school."

Adam Vanderlaan-Brown
Year: Junior
Major: Psychology
Current Position: None
Platform: "To push to create a wider variety of dining choices such as In-N-Out burger on campus. Increase the 'greenness' of CSULB by adding solar panels to generate a self-sufficient/cleaner energy for the USU and other buildings. Increase student socialization opportunities through fun school activities such as: Free Thursday night bowling and a "Slip and Slide Day," twice a year."

ACADEMIC SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

Melanie Hawe
Year: Sophomore
Major: Political science
Platform: "I will meticulously review all proposed policy changes, to ensure that any amendments are beneficial to students."

Pauline Nazareno
Year: Sophomore
Major: English education
Platform: "I get to address the gap between students on a broad level and those involved with student leadership. Accurate representation and bringing awareness to changes are my priorities in this position."

***Andrew Ramirez**
Year: Sophomore
Major: History
Platform: "I plan on applying these skills, along with my enthusiasm for academic affairs, to make the presence of students known. Ultimately, I would continue to ensure that students graduate from CSULB with a quality degree and a quality experience above all else."

SENATORS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

***Agatha Gucyski**
Year: Junior
Major: Human resources/Accounting
Platform: "First and foremost, fight against budget cuts. Create a better tutoring system. Form a collaboration system for the College of Business Administration with other colleges to strengthen students' skills. Continue reaching out to the students who can inform me on important issues."

Jennifer Phan
Year: Senior
Major: Business management
Platform: "To professionally represent the College of Business Administration. To adhere to the needs of my peers through open communication. To take strategic action by creating resolutions in the best interest of the students. To be the powerful voice for the College of Business Administration."

Elaine Wey
Year: Junior
Major: Business management
Platform: "To make sure that our students have the best quality classes and course selection possible. Advocate for more technological equipment, study areas and available seating around CBA. Create a stronger community between CBA students and students campus-wide, as well as CBA faculty, through department or major mixers."

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

***Rosa Valle**
Year: Senior
Major: Liberal studies
Platform: "To take the steps necessary to acquire a study lab room in the CED, and to commence a peer advising group to close the existing achievement gap."

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Zachary Bales
Year: Senior
Major: Engineering
Platform: "I am running for COE Senator because I have been a student in engineering for four years, and I know what the needs of the students are."

Laura King
Year: Junior
Major: Computer engineering
Platform: "To gain funding for student projects and events. To keep students informed of ASI actions. To support student rights."

Ons Mami
Year: Junior
Major: Mechanical and industrial engineering
Platform: "Act for the students in the College of Engineering. Make the engineering student voice heard, and lobbying for issues that my college is facing, among them the small amount of classes available. Take initiative for changes as well as work on how to solve the raise of the tuition. Represent the College of Engineering with power and initiative."

Linh Nguyen
Year: Junior
Major: Not provided
Platform: "To take a strong stance against further budget cuts. Take action by writing resolutions in the best interest of all students. Seek out the needs of the student through open communication. Lobby and Create awareness within my college on pressing issues AESB and other orgs. Be the voice for the College of Engineering."

Alex Anguiano Sanchez
Year: Junior
Major: Construction engineering management
Platform: "To voice the student's objections to further tuition hikes and budget cuts. Represent the best interest of all CSULB students. Unite and create awareness in the College of Engineering. Voice the student body's opinion at the local and state levels."

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Mirian Chavez
Year: Sophomore
Major: Political science
Platform: "Work to make every opportunity out there more accessible to you such as: tutoring opportunities, job openings on campus, etc. Help create a better environment on campus to make your college experience more memorable. Hear and take action on any other concern you may have. Most importantly, advocate against budget cuts."

Joseph Phillips
Year: Junior
Major: Spanish/International studies
Platform: "To support equal education for all. To fight tuition increase tooth-and-nail. To put student need over bureaucracy need. To form resolutions that will benefit the college as a whole. To promote cross-department interdisciplinary collaboration."

Julianna Velarde
Year: Not provided
Major: Political science/Communications
Platform: "To bring the university together, as a united unit with everyone working together to fight the budget cuts and tuition rises."

Deshé Gully
Year: Freshman
Major: Not provided
Platform: "Work towards keeping the classes that students need. Keep students informed and aware as to what is going on with campus affairs and how it affects them. Listen to what you as the student wants and work towards satisfying those needs."

Asmita Deswal
Year: Sophomore
Major: Philosophy
Platform: "Stand against further budget cuts and tuition increases. Represent the needs of the students in my college."

Amparo Castillo
Year: Junior
Major: Not provided
Platform: "I can definitely be one who stresses our right as students and the unreasonableness that occurs when our tuition is getting raised more and more. In addition to this, our college should hold up our great students and their many accomplishments."

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Ashley Dodge
Year: Freshman
Major: Marine biology
Platform: "I would assure that all the students are heard by improving the communication between the student body and the members of student government. I will make well-informed decisions that best serve the student body as a whole. I would also help in advocating for a greener campus, along with the other members of Senate."

Soriya Neung
Year: Junior
Major: Biochemistry
Platform: "To arrange for more available outlets during finals week in the library. To find more comfortable and quiet study areas other than the library or the Horn Center which can be noisy. Finding ways to have all the science classes in the same area like the Hall of Science building."

Jonathan Onglatco
Year: Freshman
Major: Microbiology
Platform: "To prevent any further budget cuts. Keeping students in my college aware of any issues that will affect them. To make sure the Pell Grants are always available to students for their college career. Keep an open connection between my college and the Senate. To voice the opinions of my college."

SENATOR-AT-LARGE

***Lucy Craig**
Year: Graduate student
Major: Business/Theatre Management
Platform: "To continue building awareness about CSULB athletes and their meets/conference participation. To increase match attendance. To build stronger interdepartmental relations and increase school spirit."

Derrick Harding
Year: Junior
Major: Healthcare administration
Platform: "I will seek out your opinions as to what services and problems you are faced with on campus. I will figure out new ways of sustainability and affordability. Lastly, I will help in evaluating the usefulness of current AS and campus programs to figure out which ones work, which ones don't, and new ways of implementing them."

Manuel Nieto
Year: Sophomore
Major: Biology
Platform: "Being a voice for the students is a very important task that I will continue to fulfill by voicing students concerns in the Senate and campus-wide. I will speak against any and all budget cuts to the CSU system and cuts for the eligibility requirements for Pell Grants."

Terrence Sanvictores
Year: Freshman
Major: Undecided
Platform: "Prevent more budget cuts from happening. Make sure the concerns of the general student population are heard."

Jaime Varela
Year: Senior
Major: Journalism/Communications studies
Platform: "I will strive to create an environment where open communication and transparency are highly valued. By fostering an environment of easy accessibility, I will be able to further educate students on pressing issues and find easier ways to address students' needs."

Brandon White
Year: Sophomore
Major: Not provided
Platform: "To extend hours of the SRWC. Better promote student aid programs like tutoring and workshops. Raise campus spirit and attendance to more sporting events. Take immediate action by forming resolutions that benefit all students."

Abigail Mejia
Year: Junior
Major: Political Science
Platform: "To improve bicycle and skateboarding legislation. Improve student services such as academic advising and tutoring. Raise student participation on campus by promoting and creating more campus events. Make sure that students are aware of the new policies implemented by Senate."

Ashley Muggins
Year: Sophomore
Major: Not provided
Platform: "I would like to increase transparency through visibility so that the reputation of CSULB being a commuter campus transitions into a community campus. Pertinent issues in tuition and fee increases, underrepresented students and broken communication on campus will be my fight."

STUDENT MEDIA BOARD

Brooke James
Year: Sophomore
Major: Communication studies
Platform: "Pitch ideas/suggestions to all aspects of AS media. Seek out the needs and wants of students and present it to the board. Ensure that all media related events on campus reaches the wants of every student since CSULB has such a diverse student population."

* Note incumbents

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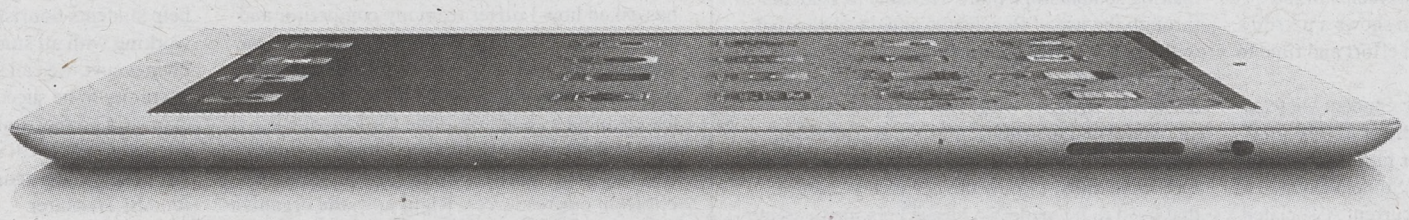

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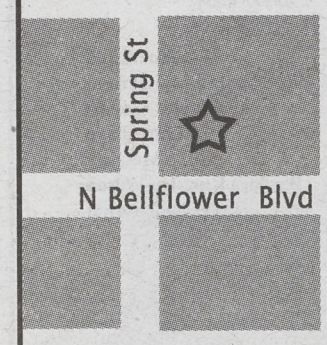

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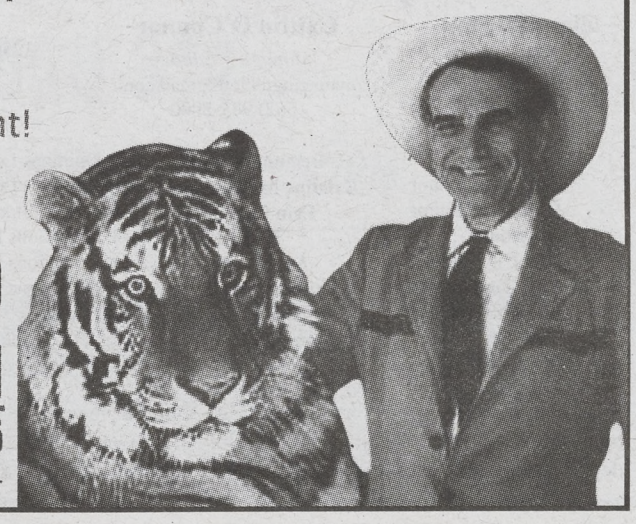

Split the ticket! 49er goes with Suazo, Bolin

It has been four years since the Associated Students Inc. elections have been this competitive. In 2009, four people ran for president. This year, there are five, and with contenders from all corners of student life. As the Cal State University continues to deal with California's budget crisis, it is even more important now to elect student leaders ready to listen to student concerns about campus and state issues.

Our View

Facing this difficult time, our university requires a student leader with experience and a different perspective. These two unique and sometimes opposing qualities can be found in presidential candidate James Suazo. Suazo provides both a calm but empowering approach, visible in both his protesting efforts and his work with the College of Liberal Arts Student Council.

Suazo is willing to go to all lengths to invite students into ASI, an issue that many of the candidates agreed was a problem at Thursday's debate. His plans to bring the government to students instead of students going to the government is commendable, especially on a campus where commuters find it difficult to get involved.

Another point on Suazo's platform is shared governance, in other words, having more students make decisions concerning the campus. Although Suazo does not currently hold an executive position, he has made efforts to not only relay information to ASI but also inspire changes within in it.

When the Academic Senate was discussing changes to general education requirements, Suazo went to the council, told them of the changes and the council wrote a resolution. This shows that Suazo can communicate to students he represents, a quality needed in such dire times.

A vice presidential candidate that stood out was Jonathon Bolin. Bolin's platform is student orientated and related to issues on campus. For the many students who don't know what ASI is, Bolin is approachable and relatable. In his answers at the debate on Thursday, he echoed many student concerns, such as the cost of higher education.

As a candidate, he seems not only "out of the box" in his appearance but thinking as well. There were a few candidates who praised current President Lucy Nguyen's "Coffee with the President" campaign, but Bolin provided a new idea. His idea to shift from the current "Coffee with the President" to a town hall setting at the Nugget is innovative and seems like it would capture not just students already involved in ASI, but other students who may not think ASI is all that helpful.

During Thursday's vice presidential debate, one issue brought up was ASI's ability — or lack there of — to involve a diverse body of students in the organization. Some candidates called ASI "cliquey" and many agreed that coming to the Senate chambers the first time was intimidating. Since one of the ASI vice president's responsibilities is to chair the Senate, this would play to Bolin's approachability.

Voter turnout has declined in ASI elections. When ASI switched from paper to online ballots, voter turnout increased from 1,027 students to 4,800, but since then it has dropped. In 2011, 2,941 people voted. This year's elections have provided students with a variety of candidates — candidates from outside and inside the current administration.

Sometimes the best candidates come from different places. Although it may be the best policy for candidates to run on a ticket in order to get more votes, the best teams can sometimes be the ones that are unplanned. Both Bolin and Suazo bring different qualities to the table that highlight what their main duties would be if elected president and vice president. Suazo has "taken to the streets" and also guided resolutions for change. Bolin knows what students' concerns are. We believe, together, the candidates have the potential to dramatically change student government.

ASI treasurer candidates discuss the merits of their platforms

Jordan Cattuzzo

After transferring to CSU Long Beach as a nutrition and dietetics major in the fall of 2009, I fell in love with this campus. I became actively involved in Petra, a community service organization. I learned a lot and was able to be involved in some amazing and humbling events: I've volunteered at Breakaway Ride Event (Breakaway from Cancer), helped feed the homeless at a homeless drop in center, participated in JDRF Walk for Juvenile Diabetes, been involved in multiple beach clean ups, helped out at Orangewood College and Career Fair to help get foster kids into college, dedicated my time to the LA Food Bank, and helped out at the American Diabetes Association: Step Out Walk. I am also actively involved with the Navigators and currently have a job working with adolescents with eating disorders. I feel community service shows dedication and heart as well as being aware of the problems in the community and society. It also shows a person's willingness to put in their own effort and time to make a difference.

I have been involved in SDA: Student Dietetic Association and I am now an officer of this organization. I also am the treasurer for the College of Health and Human Services Student Council, where I have worked with our current Associated Students Inc. treasurer on such activities as our college budget and Spring Allocations. I have helped disperse funding to clubs in our organization who have needed it, as well as help throw CHHSSC's Fall Mixer, and do funding for our organizations Health and Safety Fair and Healthy Aging Event. These positions have educated me on ASI and have really been able to show me how much a person can do in this position to help the students of Cal State Long Beach.

My main goal is to help the students of this university by staying involved and letting students, clubs, and organizations know about what funding is available to them. I want students to know how important their voice is and to have them be able to come to me with any issue so I can be able to help bring about change. Whether it's through fighting against budget cuts, or finding new ways for students to be able to find the funding and financial aid they need to continue their education, I have plans to make receiving financial aid more accessible. Such as making scholarships more available to students through the use of Beachsync and a website that will make it easier for students to sort through what funding they are eligible for. I know what it's like to struggle with receiving financial aid, and going to school full time and working. Because I know the struggles that most students face financially, I know the necessary changes that need to be made. So please help me to create the change you want to see on campus. Vote for Jordan Cattuzzo for ASI Treasurer. Thank you and GO BEACH!!!

Jose Espeleta

Dear 49ers,

My name is Jose Espeleta, candidate for ASI treasurer, and I want to thank the Daily 49er for giving me the opportunity to reach out to all of you. Although it is impossible for me to meet every single one of you, I feel that it is important that my platform is clear. I had the opportunity to hear student concerns and stories over these past few weeks and there is one that I would like to share with you. A student came up to me to tell me how she has been affected by the budget cuts and how she runs the risk of dropping out of school because of the rising costs of tuition. As a student leader, I feel that it is my responsibility to do everything I can to help the thousands of students currently struggling within our university. If elected Associate Students Inc. treasurer, I would work to the best of my ability to provide students the means to succeed. The Daily 49er has asked how I differ from my competitor and why I am qualified for this position. First, I am sure that Jordan has carefully considered her platform. However, I've had a year in student government as Senator of the College of Business looking into ASI finances, looking into ways to let all students know how they can benefit from our resources. Right now, the organizations get a lot of our help, but I feel that all our students deserve a chance to pursue their goals with the help of their student government.

While I think both of us have financial knowledge, I have had more time to look into how we can save money and increase efficiency within ASI. We are in a financial crisis, and it's going to be important for someone to be prepared to confront the obstacles facing all of us from day one. For example, this past year we launched a program called Beachsync. Many of our students still aren't aware this program exists, and it is something I wish to grow. Once it's fully implemented, Beachsync will provide an excellent opportunity to spread the word on grants and scholarships, so that more students apply and take advantage of resources that could be vital to those in danger of dropping out. With this in mind, I want everyone on campus to know that last Wednesday we finished creating $25,000 in new scholarships for students.

Our school is facing major challenges and we need a treasurer who can meet them head on and help students flourish. I am looking forward to working with all students to ensure that, despite budget cuts, we can still give students the opportunity to be successful. I've greatly enjoyed expanding opportunities available to students as a senator, and I will work to the best of my abilities to serve you again. Please vote Jose Espeleta for ASI Treasurer.

For more information, email me at asitreasurer@gmail.com and I will be more than happy to assist you.

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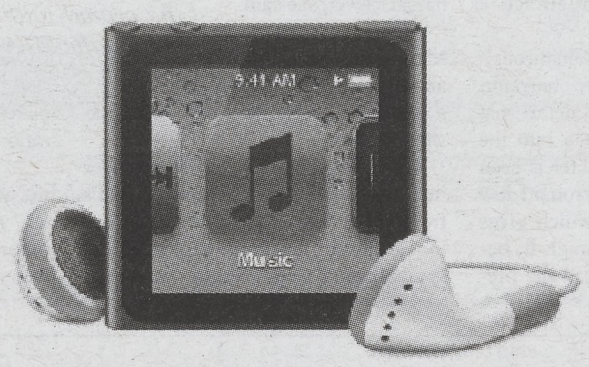

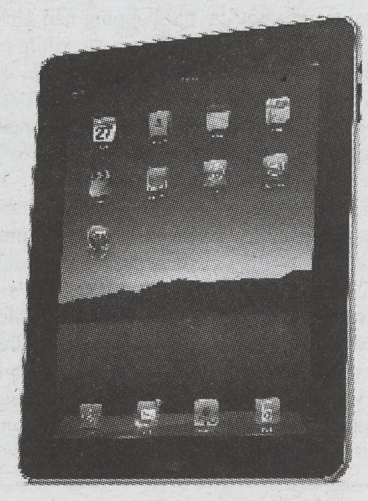

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Take a 'Journey' with a stranger on your PS3

The Playstation 3 game has a great soundtrack and outstanding visuals.

By Matt Grippi
Staff Writer

THATGAMECOMPANY

"Journey," an interactive puzzle game, is available on the Playstation 3 Marketplace for $14.99.

Journey

Did we dig it?

5 out of 5 shovels

The question of whether or not video games should be considered art has been a topic of debate for years. Recently, film critic Roger Ebert wrote an article about it called "Video Games can never be art." This view is understandable based on the constant stream of violent, bland and loud shooters that major game studios pump out every month.

"Journey," the latest game from independent video game company thatgamecompany, sets out to prove Ebert wrong. Everything from the haunting score to the astounding visuals make this little game an unquestionable work of art.

You play as a nameless robed figure, walking in an endless desert. Unlike other games, which use their big budgets to fill the screens with all kinds of visuals, the world in "Journey" is very barren. Players have to travel long distances before they are given things to interact with. This sounds boring, but it's not. The movement in the game is so fluid and responsive, and the way the character moves and slides across the sand dunes to the epic music is endlessly entertaining.

Figuring out how to play the game is half the fun. You are given no instruction other than you can move with one joystick and change the camera angle by rotating the controller. As you travel, you come across small floating pieces of fabric, which allow you to fly temporarily. As you move through the game, your character's scarf lengthens, allowing you to fly longer.

One of the most interesting elements of the game is its innovative approach to multiplayer. At certain key points in the game, another cloaked wanderer will appear in the desert. There is no way to interact with the other player vocally or through text, and the player's name is never shown. You can choose to work together to solve puzzles, or you can ignore each other completely. This is a fascinating way to play a game with somebody because you end up forming a sort of bond with a complete stranger as you explore the game together.

Revealing any more of the gameplay would spoil the sense of exploration and wonder of the game, which is half the fun. The game is about two-to-three hours long and can be played in one sitting. It costs $14.99 in the PS3 Marketplace, which is a little more than a movie ticket. However, unlike watching a movie, you will leave this game with a sense of wonder and a feeling that you just accomplished a feat. In other words, it will feel like you've been on a journey.

Student criticizes cougar lifestyle in fictional work

By Angela Ratzlaff
Staff Writer

Even though Anna Mavromati is a far cry from the qualifications of a cougar, she is able to bring others into the world of older women seeking pleasure from young men in her fictional story "Ready," which was presented during the MFA Reading Series last Friday.

Mavromati is a creative writing graduate student at Cal State Long Beach, with this semester being her last as part of the MFA Creative Writing Program.

Showing comfort in front of the microphone and the packed theater, Mavromati started in on her story, which follows a drunken older woman during her night out with a friend. The story is written in second person to give listeners a sense of them being there, she said.

"I wanted to show the depiction of what [being a cougar] would be like," she said.

The story portrays the older woman bar-hopping and picking up a younger college man, while providing moments of reflection on her actions.

"You flirt with everyone when you're drunk," the story reads. "You go to this bar often — a dive bar that attracts a younger crowd."

Even though the story is told through the eyes of an intoxicated narrator, there is a great amount of detail that brings Mavromati's audience into the story, even when the character is seen curling up to the toilet. Mavromati also includes comedic breaks, which gives the audience a chance to laugh in between the intent pondering of the lifestyle that the main character chooses to lead.

It seems that Mavromati criticizes the idea of being a cougar, but she said that her intent was to be objective and have the listeners decide for themselves. Listeners can sympathize with the main character as she judges her actions on a harsher level, she said.

The subject matter of Mavromati's story came about on accident during a writing exercise in one of her workshop classes.

Growing up on the coast provides inspiration for Mavromati, whether it's from observing older women at bars in Hermosa Beach or exploring the symbolism of land meeting water. She plans to use the coast as her main inspiration for her thesis.

"A lot of writers want to capture the idea of what the ocean means to us," she said. "I want to explore the inherent symbolism of land meeting water."

Stefan Agregado | Daily 49er

Anna Mavromati, grad student, entertains the crowd with her story about "cougars" during the MFA creative writing exhibit.

Campus Calendar

March 19

Student art galleries
The **art department** presents **student art galleries**, MFA metals, printmaking and photography from **noon to 5 p.m.** The student art galleries are located between the **FA2 and FA3** buildings. Admission is **free.**

'Zorro'
The **Long Beach Public Library Foundation** presents a screening of "**Zorro**," starring Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones. The screening will be followed by an interview with **John Gertz**, president and CEO of Zorro Productions, Inc., followed by a Q&A session.

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'Niners season ended by New Mexico

LBSU was defeated 75-68 by the Lobos in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

By Devin Ugland
Sports Editor

PORTLAND — The Cinderella story for the 12th seeded Long Beach State men's basketball team was never able to get started as it lost its second round game to the fifth seeded University of New Mexico 75-68 Thursday afternoon at the Rose Garden.

LBSU	New Mexico
Points: 68	Points: 75
FG%: 43.1	FG%: 50
3PFG%: 25	3PFG%: 33.3
Rebounds: 34	Rebounds: 30
Assists: 13	Assists: 19
High Scorer: Casper Ware (17)	High Scorer: Drew Gordon (18)
Leading Rebounder: T.J. Robinson (14)	Leading Rebounder: Drew Gordon (13)

The loss marks the last game that seniors Casper Ware, Eugene Phelps, T.J. Robinson and Larry Anderson will play as Long Beach State 49ers.

'Niners head coach Dan Monson said that the loss would feel the same even if he didn't have four seniors leaving the program.

"You have the one emotion that 67 other teams in the tournament will have, you just hate to lose," he said. "It doesn't matter if you have seniors, it's disappointing when you feel your team could go deeper than this [in the tournament]."

Monson added: "I feel good about saying goodbye to them here in the NCAA tournament. I don't know where this program is going, but now there's a foundation."

Monson felt that New Mexico was able to make more plays down the stretch that helped them defeat the 'Niners.

"I thought it was a hard-played, good college basketball game," he said. "They made more plays, more free throws and did the little things down the stretch a little bit better than we did."

"[New Mexico] executed their plays well," Robinson said. "They rebounded and made their free throws. They executed to perfection.

The 49ers were able to put together a 12-5 run capped by a dunk from junior wing James Ennis to give LBSU a 61-59 lead with 5:03 to play.

Ennis said that he felt the 'Niners had a good chance to win when they took the lead.

"I thought we had a good chance to win the game after that," he said. "They just beat us at the end. Free throws caught up with us and we didn't get it done.

New Mexico answered back as they closed out the victory with a 16-7 run of its own, connecting on 9 of 10 free throws in the final 3:35.

After jumping out to a 7-2 early lead behind two 3-pointers from Ware, the 'Niners surrendered the lead and were forced to play from behind for most of the game.

"When you play from ahead it's totally different, you can get guys blows and you can play a little different," Monson said. "It was so much energy playing from behind that we couldn't make the plays we needed to at the end."

LBSU was led by Robinson who scored 12 points on 6 of 15 shooting. The senior also pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds. Ennis finished with 13 points on 6 of 10 shooting. He also pulled down 7 boards and dished out 5 assists.

New Mexico's defense was able to force Ware into taking tough shots throughout the game. Ware ended up scoring a team-high 17 points, but connected on just 5 of 19 from the field.

"I got to the hole when I wanted to, it was just about converting and making the right play after I got past that first defender," Ware said. "We just didn't finish today.

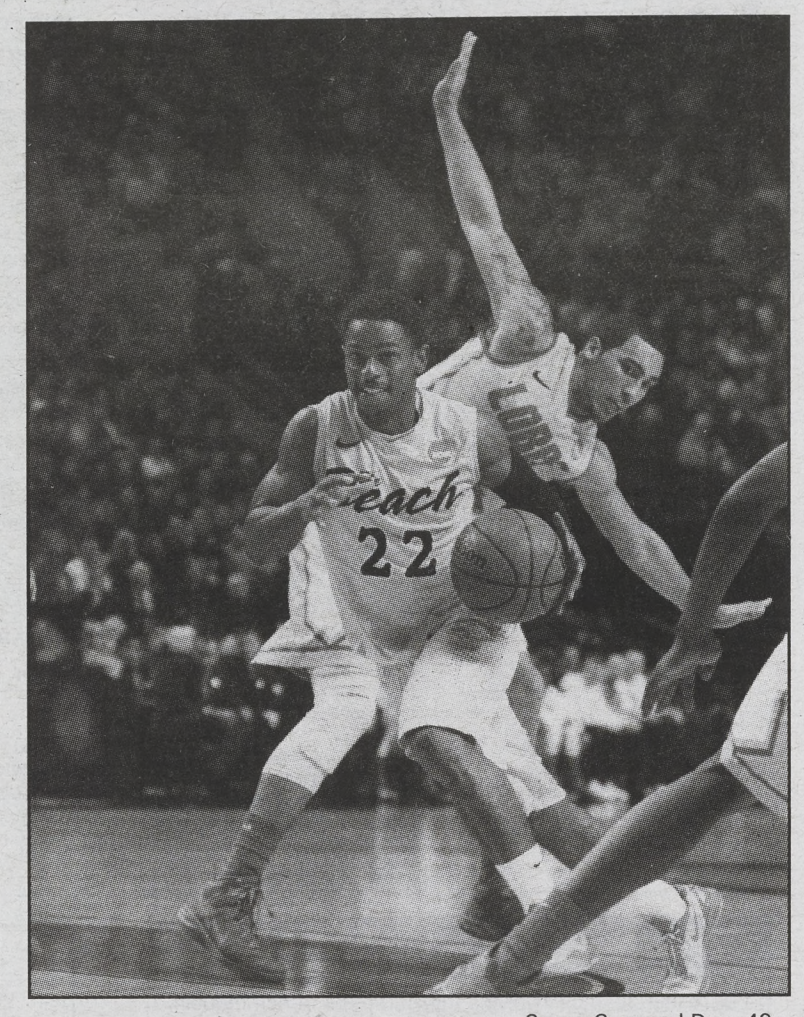
Anderson was able to start the game, but the injury to his knee looked to be bothering him throughout the contest.

"When I started it was a little tough," he said. "Once I got going it wasn't that bad. In the beginning of the game there weren't a lot of fast breaks, so it got a little tight."

Monson said he started the game in a zone defense to try and ease Anderson back into the swing of things.

"I wanted to start zone a little bit on makes or when we could get into it so Larry wouldn't have to chase guys around with that leg," he said. "Just let him get some confidence and be comfortable."

The 49ers dream run to the NCAA tournament may be over, but as Monson said, the four seniors left a lasting legacy on the program.



Steven Carcano | Daily 49er
Casper Ware (22) drives by Lobos forward Drew Gordon.

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